

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2833

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, GR, TU, CY, US
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS

1. THE AMBASSADOR PAID A COURTESY CALL ON ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS APRIL 5 DURING WHICH THE ARCHBISHOP EXPRESSED RESENTMENT AND SADNESS OVER THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO SEEK REPEAL OF THE TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO. THE ARCHBISHOP ARRIVED FROM THE U.S. APRIL 4 ON A PRIVATE VISIT (TOO ATTEND A MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR A FRIEND ON THE ISLAND OF LIMNOS). CHARLES MALIOTIS FROM BOSTON WAS ALSO PRESENT DURING THE AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON THE ARCHBISHOP.

2. AFTER EXPRESSING HIMSELF OVER THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION, THE ARCHBISHOP, SECONDED BY MR. MALIOTIS, WENT ON IN STRONG TERMS DESCRIBING THE DISAPPOINTMENT OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY IN THE U.S. OVER THE PRESIDENT'S DECISIONS AND PROPOSALS WITH RESPECT TO TURKEY. HE AND MALIOTIS TOLDHOWTHEY AND OTHER LEADERS OF THE GREEK-AMERICAN COMMUNITY HAVE BEEN STRUGGLING SINCE 1974 TO HELP IMPROVE US-GREEK RELATIONS ONLY TO HAVE THEIR EFFORTS UNDERMINED BY THIS RECENT DEVELOPMENT. IN THIS CONNECTION, MALIOTIS RECALLED HIS FEBRUARY 28 MEETING WITH COUNSELOR NIMETZ
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IN THE DEPARTMENT DURING WHICH THEY HAD DISCUSSED THE PROBLEM OF ANTI-AMERICANISM IN GREECE.

3. BOTH THE ARCHBISHOP AND MALIOTIS WERE DOUBLY CONCERNED OVER THE SITUATION THAT HAS DEVELOPED HERE WITH RESPECT TO THE PROPOSAL TO LIFT THE EMBARGO AS A RESULT OF REMARKS MADE TO THEM JUST BEFORE THE AMBASSADOR'S VISIT BY MINISTER OF THE MERCHANT

MARINE KEFALOYANNIS. KEFALOYANNIS, WHO, LIKE MALIOTIS, IS FROM CRETE, IS STRONGLY PRO-AMERICAN. HE IS GREATLY DISTURBED BY THE LIKELY REACTION ON THE ISLAND OF CRETE ESPECIALLY IN CONNECTION WITH THE U.S. BASES AT IRAKLION AND SOUDA. KEFALOYANNIS HAD ALSO IMPRESSED UPON THE VISITORS FROM THE U.S. HIS FEAR THAT THE USG'S ACTIONS IN THIS RESPECT WOULD BE A GREAT BOOST TO PASOK LEADER PAPANDREOU.

4. THE ARCHBISHOP AND MALIOTIS REFERRED REPEATEDLY TO THE MORAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS WHICH IN THE VIEW OF MANY AMERICANS DICTATED EMPLACEMENT OF THE EMBARGO. WHEN HE ARRIVED HERE TUESDAY AFTERNOON, IAKOVOS TOLD THE PRESS HE HAD SENT A TELEGRAM TO PRESIDENT CARTER BEFORE LEAVING NEW YORK IN WHICH HE EXPRESSED THE CONCERN OF GREEK-AMERICANS AND WONDERED WHAT MORAL OR LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS DICTATED THE PRESIDENTIAL ACTION. THE AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED THE RATIONALE FOR THE USG DECISION AND URGED THAT ALL CONCERNED AWAIT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS WITH AN OPEN MIND. IN THIS RESPECT THE ARCHBISHOP CONCEDED, AFTER CONTENDING THEY HAD TO BE "ACCEPTABLE", THAT THE SUBMISSION BY THE TURKISH SIDE OF PROPOSALS ON CYPRUS WHICH PROVIDED A BASIS FOR THE RESUMPTION OF THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS WOULD HELP ALLEVIATE THE BITTERNESS AND INDIGNATION OF THE GREEK PEOPLE, AND OF THE GREEK-AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN THE U.S. HOWEVER, HE ADDED, HE HAD LITTLE CONFIDENCE IN PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT'S SINCERITY OR GOOD FAITH TO HONOR HIS COMMITMENT TO UNSYG WALDHEIM.

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5. THE ARCHBISHOP EXPECTS TO SEE PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS, POSSIBLY ON SUNDAY, BEFORE HE LEAVES FOR NEW YORK ON MONDAY.
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